

BE SAFE **BSRM** THE GREAT WALL

**EMF TESTED**

**DUCTILE ROD**  
BSRM Xtreme500W

**BSRM Xtreme**  
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

**TRANSKOM DIGITAL**

**Eid shopping festival**

**Win Home Decor Package**

worth Tk. **1 Lac**

**Win a Samsung GALAXY STAR Everyday**

For More Information: 9855366-8, 01712-665463

# Unified steps await rivers

## JS passes bill to form river commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed a bill for the formation of a national river commission, which will make necessary recommendations for the government to save rivers and water bodies from grabbers and polluters.

The National River Protection Commission will also place its recommendations before the government for effective coordination among ministries and divisions involved in river and water management.

The government has already involved 14 authorities and agencies in river management in different aspects. These bodies, seriously lacking coordination, have even failed to agree on the number of rivers crisscrossing the country.

Experts and environmentalists, however, cast doubts on the effectiveness of the commission as it will have no executive power to implement its recommendations.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, who proposed passage of the bill, said once formed, the commission would be able to play an effective role in freeing the rivers from grabbers and polluters.

The commission will be formed as soon as possible comprising a chairman and a maximum of four members.

The chairman and members must be nationally and globally recognised river and water experts and environmentalists and experts in river engineering and hydrology. Rights or environment activists might also be in the commission. They will be appointed for a three-year term.

The government moved to form the river commission in the wake of a widespread campaign launched by different environment organisations and media against river grab

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Water Development Board is building an embankment with concrete slabs on the shore of the Shitalakkhya, further raising questions about the highly controversial demarcation of rivers around Dhaka. Yet sand traders continue to illegally occupy a large section of the river.

PHOTO: STAR

# TI clarifies its survey

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International (TI) Secretariat in a clarification has said that according to the recent survey, corruption was a serious problem around the world and Bangladesh was no exception.

The clarification came after some Bangladeshi media reported that the GCB data for Bangladesh was inconsistent with the data on the Berlin-based organisation's website.

TI launched the Global Corruption Barometer

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

# Is AL shake-up soon?

## Unconfirmed versions see major reshuffle in party, govt around the corner

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may reshuffle the cabinet and bring about changes in her party after Eid-ul-Fitr.

In the process, she is likely to drop some ministers and advisers and bring in some party stalwarts, including Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta, in the party's presidium.

Hasina, who heads the Awami League as its president, is planning these changes to boost her government and the party ahead of the next general election, which is due between October and January, sources said.

Changes in the party are likely to be brought

about through a special council.

According to government and party sources, Syed Ashraf Islam may lose both his posts as LGRD minister and as party general secretary. Discussion on the matter, however, is still on.

Some other key ministries are also likely to see changes at their helm. Most people are critical of these ministers over their embarrassing statements and actions, an influential minister told The Daily Star.

"The prime minister is seriously thinking about bringing about the changes in the party and the cabinet," said the minister, preferring not to be named.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# BISHWAJIT KILLING TRIAL

## Complainant tells court of murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of the Bishwajit murder case began at a Dhaka court yesterday, nearly seven months after the gruesome murder of the innocent tailor.

On the first day, the court recorded the statement of Md Jalal Uddin, a sub-inspector of Sutrapur Police Station and also the complainant of the Bishwajit Das killing case.

Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League allegedly stabbed Bishwajit, 24, proprietor of Amantron Tailors in Shankharibazar area of Sutrapur, to death during a road blockade programme of BNP-led 18-party alliance on December 9 last year.

Yesterday, Jalal told Judge (in-charge) Dewan Md

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# It's lawful

## Another amicus curiae tells SC about challenging Quader Mollah verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent lawyer Ajmalul Hossain yesterday told the Supreme Court that the amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, which cleared the way for challenging inadequate sentences of convicts, is applicable in the case against Abdul Quader Mollah.

He gave the opinion as amicus curiae (friend of court) before the Appellate Division of the SC during the hearing on the appeals against the verdict in the war crimes trial of Jamaat leader Quader Mollah.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



# BOAT HAAT

Newly built boats are on sale at Atghar-Kuriana canal in Swarupkathi of Pirojpur. Every Friday the boats go on sale with the rainy season at its peak. Farmers use these boats to transport guavas they produce in abundance in this region. However, the boats are rather cheap to buy. They cost between Tk 1,000 and Tk 3,000.

PHOTO: COURTESY ARIFUR RAHMAN

# Solid rain!

## A cure for drought

MAIL ONLINE

Farmers in arid countries could soon have a cure for the droughts that blight their crops -- in the form of powdered water.

The powder, called Solid Rain, looks like sugar and is made of an absorbent material called potassium polyacrylate, capable of soaking in liquids up to 500 times its size.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

**Visit & discovery in the Excellence in Bangladeshi Furniture and Allied Products Industries**

Bangladesh Furniture and Interior Décor Expo 2013 (BFID Expo 2013) will take place in Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka during 18-20 July, 2013. The Exhibitors from Furniture and home furnishing sectors will display their modern and well designed wide range of furniture and home furnishing products made of high class input blended with sophisticated hand carving, hand waving and creativity of artisans and craftsmen.

The Expo is open for all. Visiting hours are 10 A. M to 08:00 P.M. You are cordially welcome to the International Exposition.

Jointly Organized by:

In Collaboration with:

**BRB**

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
5	15		6-53
6	16	3-50	6-52
7	17	3-50	6-52

PRAYER TIMING July 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	3-49	3-54
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-53	7-03
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Egypt swears in interim leaders

## Launches criminal probe against Morsi

AGENCIES

Mohamed ElBaradei, a former senior UN diplomat, was sworn in yesterday as Egypt's interim vice president for foreign relations -- a key step in establishing a temporary government following the recent coup.

A former ambassador to the United States, Nabil Fahmy, accepted the post of foreign minister, a sign of the importance the government places in its relationship

with the superpower that provides \$1.3 billion a year in military aid.

Hazem el-Beblawi, a 76-year-old liberal economist appointed interim prime minister last week, is tapping technocrats and liberals for a government to run the country under a temporary constitution until parliamentary elections in about six months.

He would meet with Cabinet nominees till today in an effort to complete formation

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

**The Daily Star**

**Integral Energy Limited**

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with Communications Minister Obaidul Quader that Finance Minister AMA Muhith's stance is delaying start of Padma bridge construction?

Yes  (62%)

No  (38%)

TOTAL VOTES: 215

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think scrapping the quota provision in preliminary BCS exams is enough to resolve the current situation?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**The Daily Star**

Subscribe to **SMS EVENING NEWS**

Register at: **2222**

Day's roundup in your pocket

**REGISTRATION FREE**

**For Registration:** Go to message option on your mobile and type start<space>pm & send to 2222 Tariff: Tk. 1/SMS

**To Unsubscribe:** Go to message option on your mobile and type stop<space>pm & send to 2222

Scan with **The Daily Star sms**

QR Code Scanner

Evening News (text "start pm" to 2222)

To Text